



RockvilleReports

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• A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE •

APFS Review Examines School Capacity Mayor and Council to Hold Hearings in January

The Mayor and Council will hold two public hearings on a proposed change to the City's Adequate Public Facilities Standards (APFS) as they relate to public school facilities on Mondays, Jan. 5 and Jan. 26.

The APFS are designed to ensure adequate public facilities will be in place to serve new development. When new development is approved, standards for water and sewer service, fire and emergency services, transportation infrastructure and public schools must be met.

Public schools in Rockville are run by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), which projects student enrollment at each school five years into the future. These projections form the basis for Rockville's current APFS "schools test," which must be met in order to build a new development in Rockville.

The current test for the City involves evaluating capacity one year and two years into the future by taking into account MCPS projections, student enrollment that will be generated by approved but unbuilt development and enrollment that would be generated by the proposed development. Taking those factors into account, the

enrollment cannot exceed 110 percent of the classroom capacity of each elementary, middle and high school serving the new development. If this test cannot be met, the development either cannot be approved, or can be conditionally approved so that the project can be built if school capacity becomes available.

The proposed change to the APFS is to make the City's schools test consistent with Montgomery County's, which differs in several ways. The county establishes 120 percent as the maximum school enrollment at the five-year projection, rather than the City's 110 percent at years one and two. The county measures capacity at the cluster-wide level, rather than for each individual school, as the City's test requires.

The public hearings will be held on Jan. 5 and Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. A vote on whether to adopt any proposed changes will be scheduled for a later date.

To view the Nov. 17 Mayor and Council discussion of the APFS, or for more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and select the television icon and/or materials next to the meeting date. ✚



The City's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will feature a keynote speech and multicultural performances.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ceremony to Celebrate 'A Beloved Community' Program to Feature Speaker Patrice Gaines

Rockville will mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19 with performances and awards recognizing Rockville community members who are carrying on King's legacy.

The 43rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The celebration will include diverse, interactive and multicultural performances by Motion and Vision Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Urban Artistry hip hop dancers, Kiamsha theatrical group, Arte Flamenco, Glorystar Children's Chorus and more.

The featured speaker, Patrice Gaines, is a journalist, author and motivational speaker whose work includes 16 years as a reporter with "The Washington Post," commentaries on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and author of the book "Moments of Grace: Meeting the Challenge to Change." She will deliver a speech incorporating this year's theme of "A Beloved Community."

"We are trying to encourage being an advocate for those things that make a community strong, and to celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the community," said Janet Kelly, City staff liaison to Rockville's Human Rights Commission, which hosts the celebration. "We are encouraging understanding of each person's values, traditions and needs."

The celebration also features the presentation of two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award will be presented to a

Rockville high school student who has worked to fulfill King's dream. The F. Michael Taff

Award will be presented to an individual, organization or business that has helped improve the quality of the lives of people with disabilities.

The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

For information about access, call the City's ADA coordinator at 240-314-8108. For information about the celebration, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. ✚

IF YOU GO

WHAT: 43rd Annual MLK Day Celebration
WHEN: Monday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.
WHERE: Richard Montgomery H.S., 250 Richard Montgomery Dr.



MAYOR AND COUNCIL WELCOMES DELEGATION FROM JIAXING, CHINA. The delegation spent two days in December meeting with elected officials, City staff, and representatives from Montgomery County Public Schools. The Rockville Sister City Corporation provided tours of the City and hosted a dinner at the Rockville Hilton. Rockville entered into a friendly relations agreement with Jiaxing in 2009 to foster a future Sister City relationship.

Rockville Facilities to Close for New Year's and MLK Day Recycling and Refuse Collection Will Be Affected

Rockville City Hall and all City facilities will be closed for New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19.

Recycling and refuse will not be collected on Jan. 1 or Jan. 19. During the week of New Year's Day, recycling and refuse that is regularly collected on Thursday will be collected on Friday, Jan. 2. During the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, all recycling and refuse collections will occur one day later than the regular schedule.

For more information on holiday collection schedules, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse or call 240-314-8568.

On Monday, Jan. 19:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center will be closed.
- F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre will be closed.
- Glenview Mansion will be closed.
- Rockville Civic Center Park offices will be closed.
- Rockville Senior Center will be closed.
- The Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Thomas Farm Community Center and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will be open regular hours.

Parking fees at City-owned meters will be suspended on both holidays.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ✚

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Learn how the City made progress on Mayor and Council goals.

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Get the dates for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget process.

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City centers offer help toward fitness goals.

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8 A Rocket's Return
A Rockville native comes full circle at Richard Montgomery High School.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville, Maryland
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A Year In Review

One year ago, the Mayor and Council set their vision and goals for the term that ends in November. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and councilmembers Beryl L. Feinberg, Tom Moore, Virginia D. Onley and Julie Palakovich Carr identified eight “critical success factors,” which represent what the City will look like when the Mayor and Council achieve their shared vision.

Those factors are:

- Effective city service delivery.
- Good governance.



(left to right) Councilmembers Tom Moore and Beryl L. Feinberg, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Councilmembers Virginia D. Onley and Julie Palakovich Carr.

- Livable neighborhoods.
- Fiscal responsibility.
- Well-planned community.
- Engaged residents.
- Responsible economic development.
- Stewardship of infrastructure.

Read a full description of these “critical success factors” at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Learn more about the process the Mayor and Council took to establish their “critical success factors” in the March 2014 edition of “Rockville Reports,” at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereports.

City Sees Progress Toward Achieving Mayor and Council Vision

Progress has been made in a number of areas in the year since the Mayor and Council agreed on a direction for the City. Highlights include:



Advocating for a New Elementary School to Alleviate Overcrowding

Rockville continued to advocate, during the 2014 state legislative session in Annapolis as well as at the county level, for a new elementary school in the Richard Montgomery cluster to be built at full size. Last fall, City leaders testified at Montgomery County Board of Education budget hearings as part of the school system's Fiscal Year 2016 planning process. They will continue to advocate for the project before the County Council and the state legislature.

Enacting Charter Changes

The Mayor and Council took key action related to the City Charter during the past year. After gathering public input, the body voted to lengthen the terms of office for future mayors and councils from two to four years, beginning with the November 2015 election. They also updated language in the charter to add prohibitions against discrimination in employment of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender individuals.



Improving Key City Facilities

The Mayor and Council approved plans, funded in the Capital Improvements Program, to repair the pool deck and upgrade the heating, ventilation and air circulation system in the South Pool at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center. Work is scheduled to begin as early as spring 2015. A comprehensive assessment of facility conditions at the center, to determine future needs,

will be made public in early 2015. See the article on page 3 for details. The Mayor and Council also approved funding to design and construct a new parking lot adjacent to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville Civic Center Park to improve accessibility to the theatre and its social hall.

Determining Projects to Fund with Bonds

The Mayor and Council adopted a bond ordinance in the fall to finance, in part, the construction of water, sewer and stormwater system improvements. During worksessions related to the current fiscal year's budget, the Mayor and Council discussed bonding of capital projects. They are expected to discuss the bonding of capital projects again this spring as part of the budget planning process for Fiscal Year 2016, which begins July 1.



Prioritizing 'Rockville's Pike Plan'

The Mayor and Council identified finalizing “Rockville's Pike Plan” as a priority initiative for the current term. The body held a town hall meeting and open house, a walking town meeting, worksessions and public hearings and will continue work on the plan in 2015. See the article on page 5 for details.



Ushering in Town Center 'Phase Two'

Building on the success of the past decade of redevelopment in Rockville Town Center, the City moved ahead with approvals for two key properties in the area bordered by Beall Avenue, North Washington Street and Hungerford Drive (Route 355). The properties, formerly home to a Giant grocery store, a Bank of America branch and offices, are being redeveloped as a senior living facility and office and

retail/restaurant spaces. The City is also making plans to improve the street network by extending Dawson and Maryland avenues.



Streamlining Development Review

The Mayor and Council continue to support an effort to improve the City's internal processing of development review applications, with a focus on improving and coordinating applicant submissions and the staff review process of site plans. Last fall, the City Manager presented recommendations, formulated by an internal work group, to two customer focus groups. The recommendations are scheduled to be presented to the Mayor and Council in 2015.



Accelerating Tree Trimming

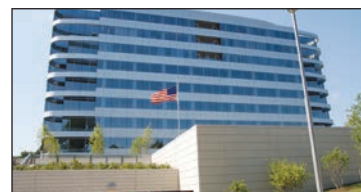
The Mayor and Council included an additional \$47,000 in the current budget to conduct City street tree pruning more frequently. Four tree care contractors have completed pruning on 25 streets since July 1. Pruning will continue in the Fallsmead and Glenora Hills neighborhoods in early 2015.



Evaluating Senior Services

As Rockville's population continues to age and the number of seniors in the community grows, the City, with the help of a consultant, is taking a close look at senior needs to identify service gaps. The senior needs assessment and service gap analysis is expected to get underway in late spring 2015, with

a report reaching the Mayor and Council by the fall.



Expanding the Use of Renewable Energy

Rockville continued to make a name for itself as a green city by working to reduce the cost of supplying electricity at City facilities. The City is now at 100 percent renewable energy through the purchase of wind renewable energy certificates. In July, Rockville was ranked No. 26 on the Environmental Protection Agency's top 30 local government green power users. Last fall, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments gave the City a leadership award for its energy and green building initiatives.



Reinstating Walking Town Meetings

The Mayor and Council reinstated a popular community-building event – the walking town meeting. They held meetings in the North Farm neighborhood in June and Potomac Woods in October. They expect to continue this series in the spring with a meeting in Twinbrook (and other neighborhoods to follow as schedules permit).



Assessing The Farmstead

In February, the Mayor and Council directed staff to conduct a facility condition assessment of the buildings located on the City-owned King Farm Farmstead. The assessment reached the Mayor and Council and the Historic District Commission in late summer and is being used to inform future fund-

ing decisions. Work to address groundhog damage and to assess hazardous materials in all of the buildings took place in recent months. Read the assessment report and follow the progress of this initiative at www.rockvillemd.gov/kingfarmfarmstead.

Expanding Procurement Opportunities

A new procurement program aims to increase opportunities for minority, female and disabled-owned companies to do business with the City. The Mayor and Council directed staff to draft goals, objectives and strategies for the new program, and are scheduled to review these in early 2015.



Continued Fiscal Responsibility

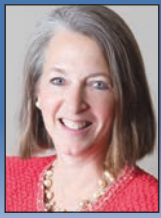
The Mayor and Council addressed one of the most significant financial issues facing the City by undertaking a study of the City's utility rate structure and endorsing a plan for sustainable rates to support Rockville's water and sewer infrastructure. In November, two rating agencies reaffirmed the City's “triple A” bond rating and expressed confidence in the City's financial outlook. See the article on page 3 for details. Meanwhile, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada honored the City with awards for its budget and financial reporting.

Revising the Animal Control Ordinance

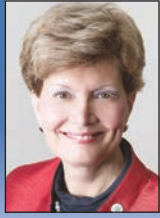
The Mayor and Council began a discussion of proposed changes to Rockville's animal control rules. The proposed changes include, among other things: cat and ferret licensing; new dog tethering and shelter requirements; allowing specific types of livestock, such as chickens, on residential lots; and introducing the trap-neuter-return approach to feral cat population control.

The Mayor and Council are expected to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes on Feb. 9.

Mayor & Council



Mayor
Bridget Donnell Newton



Councilmember
Beryl L. Feinberg



Councilmember
Tom Moore



Councilmember
Virginia D. Onley



Councilmember
Julie Palakovich Carr

Schools, Highway User Revenue Top Rockville's State Legislative Priorities *Maryland General Assembly's 90-Day Session Begins Jan. 14*

Rockville's 2015 state legislative priorities include calls for increased state aid for school construction and parks and a permanent way to fund road maintenance, and opposition to any attempts to change the state's financial disclosure requirements for elected officials.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton presented Rockville's state legislative priorities for the 2015 Maryland General Assembly to the Montgomery County Delegation at a hearing on Nov. 19.

Under priorities approved by the Mayor and Council in June, the City will:

- **Advocate for increased school construction funding** from the state to address overcrowded and aging Montgomery County Public School facilities in Rockville and across the county.
- **Urge a permanent way to fund infrastructure through municipal Highway User Revenues.** The state provided one-time restorations in the aid, used for road maintenance and small infrastructure improvement projects, in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015, which ends June 30.
- **Pursue an amendment to state law outlining the master plan adoption process.** The amendment

would make it clear that local legislative bodies have more than 60 days to review master plans submitted by the Planning Commission, and have remand authority over the entirety, or portions, of the proposed plan. The amendment also would make it clear that the local legislative body has final authority to amend any master plan submitted for adoption.

- **Support the current state ethics law** relating to financial disclosure requirements for municipal elected officials and oppose any proposals to modify it.
- **Monitor legislation related to stormwater fees** to ensure that the City's fee and program are protected.
- **Advocate for the restoration of Program Open Space funding.** The state aid, which was drastically cut during the economic recession, allows the City to build parks and recreation facilities that support the health and wellness of residents.

The 2015 state legislative session runs from Jan. 14 to April 13 in Annapolis.

For more details on these state legislative priorities, contact Linda Moran at lmoran@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8115. ❖

Improvements to Bring Fresh Air, New Deck to South Pool

A \$2.5 million improvement project will "provide needed structural repairs and a better swimming experience" at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's South Pool, the center's superintendent said.

The Mayor and Council gave the go-ahead to the project on Nov. 24. It will involve replacing the pool deck and the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC)

system.

"The pool's footprint and layout won't look significantly different after the improvements," said Adam Goldstein, the center's superintendent.

These are the first major repairs or renovation to the South Pool since it was built in 1968. Since then, exposure to chlorinated water and poor air quality has led the concrete slabs of the pool deck and

continued on pg. 8...

Mayor and Council Endorse New Water and Sewer Rate Structure *Vote on Rates for the Next Three Years is Scheduled for Jan. 5*

Rockville customers will see moderate increases to water and sewer rates over the next six years following an outside consultant's report recommending rate structure changes and increases to address deficits in the City's water and sewer funds.

The Mayor and Council will vote on Monday, Jan. 5 on the first three years of rates under the plan.

In November, the Mayor and Council took significant steps towards their goal of sustainable rates to support the City's water and sewer infrastructure by unanimously approving all 10 recommendations made by Burton & Associates.

The revenue generated by moderate increases to usage and fixed-charge rates will improve the water and sewer infrastructure for generations to come.

The Mayor and Council's action addresses one of the most significant financial issues facing the City. Rockville shares a core challenge with utilities across the country, namely, a rate structure that

relies on revenue from usage fees to cover water and sewer operations costs. While the vast majority of operation costs are fixed, revenue from usage fees has decreased due to increased conservation of water as a precious resource.

The rate structure changes will slowly begin to change the amount of revenue derived from a fixed source, as opposed to from usage fees. This is an important and critical first step that will begin to show results almost immediately, said Gavin Cohen, the City's director of finance. "It's important for residents to understand that utilities such as the water and sewer systems require ongoing investment in their infrastructure," Cohen said.

Residents will see the new rates go into effect on July 1.

Find more information about the ordinance to set water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2016 through Fiscal Year 2018 in the Mayor and Council agenda from Dec. 8 at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter. ❖

Rockville's Holiday Drive Makes the Season Special for Neighbors in Need

Rockville's Holiday Drive made Thanksgiving and the December holiday season special for neighbors in need. The drive provided Thanksgiving meals to 503 families, including more than 1,500 individuals, and hosted a Thanksgiving meal for 112 seniors.

In December, 120 volunteers contributed over 310 hours decorating the toy shop, sorting toys, assisting families and wrapping gifts, and joined City staff in delivering and distributing holiday gifts. Deliveries and the drive's toy shop served:

- 264 families.
- 408 children ages 10 and under.
- 156 children ages 11 to 17.
- 47 senior or adult-only

households.

The drive distributed:

- 816 toys.
- 264 board games and stuffed animals.
- 374 books.
- Stocking stuffers for 408 children.
- Giant gift cards to 188 senior or adult-only households.
- Target gift cards to 256 children ages 11 to 17.

In addition, gifts tailored to the needs of 74 families, including 131 adults and 180 children, were delivered through the family sponsorship program.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive or by calling Community Services at 240-314-8310. ❖

MEETINGS & DROP IN SCHEDULE

All general sessions, worksessions and public hearings are televised on Rockville channel 11 and are available on streaming video at www.rockvillemd.gov. Residents may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Community Forum" portion at most meetings. Meetings are at 7 p.m. and are subject to change.

- Jan. 5 (Monday)
- Jan. 12 (Monday)
- Jan. 26 (Monday)

The mayor and one councilmember are available to meet with residents for drop-in discussions from 5:30-6:30 p.m. one Monday per month in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall. No appointment is necessary, but a call to the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280 is appreciated. Along with Mayor Newton, the councilmember scheduled this month is Julie Palakovich Carr on Jan. 12.

IN BRIEF

Mayor and Council Hear FY 2016 Budget Preview

Public Hearings Scheduled for March and April

The Mayor and Council will continue discussing their vision for Rockville's Fiscal Year 2016 budget on Monday, Jan. 5, with the second of three previews. The preview will focus on the Mayor and Council's top priorities for the coming year.

A third and final preview, focusing on major changes and property taxes, is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9.

The rest of the budget schedule is as follows:

- March 23: The formal introduction of the city manager's proposed budget, and the Mayor and Council's first worksession.
- March 30 and April 13: Public hearings and worksessions.
- April 20: Final public hearing. The public record closes on April 21.
- May 4: A final worksession.
- May 18: Final adoption of the budget.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. To view the first budget preview, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and select the television icon next to the Nov. 24 meeting date.

The second preview will be televised as part of the regular Mayor and Council meeting on Jan. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. It will be broadcast live on channel 11 on county cable systems, available via live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available on demand at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter beginning Jan. 7.

Rockville's AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Two rating agencies recently reaffirmed the City's "triple A" bond rating and expressed confidence in the City's financial outlook.

The highest-possible rating, awarded by Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's, allows Rockville to borrow money at the most favorable rates.

The rating agencies cited the City's conservative fiscal management, its strong policies and practices, ample reserve levels and low direct debt burden.

In November, the City sold \$15.5 million in general obligation bonds to Raymond James & Associates at a 2.69 percent interest rate. The bond proceeds will be used to finance infrastructure improvements at Rockville Civic Center Park and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, as well as water and sewer system and stormwater management improvements.

Connect with us on Social Media.





Property Improvements May Qualify for Historic Preservation Tax Credits

Montgomery County tax credits are available for Rockville properties located within designated historic districts.

The City of Rockville's Historic District Commission (HDC) participates in the county's preservation tax credit program to assist owners of historic properties with their yearly exterior maintenance expenses. Structural repairs and pruning of trees away from a historic structure may also be covered.

Ordinary maintenance, defined as work undertaken to repair existing building elements with the same materials and design, does not require prior HDC approval. All other exterior work must have prior HDC approval to be eligible. The HDC reviews tax credit applications and makes a recommendation to the county to approve or disallow the proposed tax credit.

Applicants should remember the following:

- This program evaluates the work completed by the applicant in the 2014 calendar year.
- Include photos with the application, documenting condition before and after work is undertaken.
- Only exterior work is eligible.
- Property tax obligations for 2015-2016 will be reduced by 25 percent of approved expenditures.

To learn more about the HDC and this tax credit program at the county, state, or federal level, or to get an application, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/historic. Applications should be postmarked by April 1 and mailed to the Historic Preservation Division, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD, 20850. Reviews will be scheduled by the HDC in May and June.

For more information, contact Sheila Bashiri, historic preservation planner, at 240-314-8236 or sbashiri@rockvillemd.gov.

Peerless Honors Contributions to Rockville's Heritage

The Preservation Organization Celebrated '40 Years of Peerless Places'

Residents, architects and builders, a City advisory committee and a church group were among the honorees as Peerless Rockville celebrated "40 Years of Peerless Places" on Dec. 7 with an annual holiday open house and awards ceremony at the Red Brick Courthouse in Town Center.

The awards recognized efforts to preserve Rockville's historic and architectural character through projects, activities or programs. This year's winners were:

- The Sullivan family, for stewardship and landscaping at 16 Thomas St.
- Sara Kiesler, homeowner; and Jeff Broadhurst and Hisao Yatsuhashi, architects; for excellence in ownership and architecture, for directions and decisions made in the rehabilitation and renovation of 103 Forest Ave.
- The Montgomery County Department of General Services, Division of Building Design and Construction; architects from Dewberry; and Dustin Construction; for the outstanding modernist design and construction of the new Travilah Fire Station at the corner of Shady Grove Road and Darnestown Road.
- David Peabody, architect; and O'Neill Development, general contractor; for the vision, design and construction of the "green" and compatible new house at 214 Harrison St.
- St. Mary's Bicentennial

Celebration Committee, for the yearlong effort and sponsorship of educational programs for the public, to celebrate the bicentennial of St. Mary's Catholic Church at 520 Veirs Mill Road.

- Ida Wallenmeyer, Patricia Neame and Rose Sharkey, for excellence in educational outreach and volunteering, in their restoration of the interpretive Dr. Stonestreet's medicinal garden at the Beall-Dawson House, at 103 West Montgomery Ave.
- Federal Realty Investment Trust, for fostering community involvement and city identity with ongoing and creative programming at Rockville Town Square.
- Rockville Bike Advisory Committee, for outstanding achievement in volunteering and incorporating Rockville's historic sites into multiple guided bicycle trips.
- Howard Katz, of Streetscape Partners, developers; and Hank Handler, of Oak Grove Restoration, restoration contractor; for exemplary decisions for stewardship and restoration of the historic Rose Hill Barn at 127 Bullard Circle.

Peerless Rockville is an award-winning, community-based nonprofit founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects, and information important to Rockville's heritage.

Learn more at www.peerlessrockville.org, or call 301-762-0096. ❄️



Rockville Hosts BRT Meeting

The county's bus rapid transit (BRT) system plans were the topic of a meeting of elected officials from Rockville, Gaithersburg and Montgomery County on Dec. 3 at Rockville City Hall.

BRT is a high-capacity transit service that involves specialized buses traveling in dedicated lanes separate from other vehicles. Rockville's Mayor and

Council recently identified BRT as a key legislative and policy priority to work on with county legislators in 2015.

Leaders from the three jurisdictions discussed how they can collaborate on BRT so the project best meets the needs of all area residents.

View the full meeting on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. ❄️



Photo Credit: Lewis Pindell, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Comm.

ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED THE GOVERNOR'S CRIME PREVENTION AWARD FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. The award is given to departments that meet criteria for a comprehensive law enforcement agency. Criteria include conducting crime prevention programs such as a community neighborhood watch, home and commercial security surveys, crime prevention programs for the elderly and youth, and drug awareness programs. Cpl. Ken Matney, who oversees RCPD's crime prevention programs, accepted the award during the 35th Annual Governor's Crime Prevention Awards banquet on Dec. 4 in Annapolis.



Support Rockville Police As They Take the Plunge for Special Olympics

19th Annual Polar Bear Plunge

Friday, Jan. 23 • 1-3 p.m. • Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

For the sixth year, a team of Rockville police officers will take a dip in the chilly Chesapeake Bay to support Special Olympics Maryland during a special police plunge, a day before PlungeFest 2015.

To contribute to the Rockville officers' plunge team, visit www.plungemd.com and search for "Rockville City Police."

Donate to our COAT DRIVE

JAN. 2 THROUGH JAN. 8

Lincoln Park Community Center has teamed up with Burlington Coat Factory and Shady Grove Fertility for their 8th Annual One Warm Coat Drive. Drop off coats (any size new or gently used) from Friday, Jan. 2 through Thursday, Jan. 8.

Drop Off Locations

- Lincoln Park Community Center**
357 Frederick Ave.
- Rockville City Hall**
111 Maryland Ave.
- Rockville Police Station**
2 W. Montgomery Ave.
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center**
355 Martin's Ln.
- Thomas Farm Community Center**
700 Falls Grove Dr.
- Twinbrook Community Rec. Center**
12920 Twinbrook Pkwy.
- Shady Grove Fertility**
15001 Shady Grove Rd, Rockville, MD 20850

Get Into It

240-314-8780
www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc

If your company or organization would like to support the coat drive either with donated coats or a financial contribution, contact Yvette Yeboah, LPCC supervisor, at lpcc@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8783.

News You Can Use

Rockville Releases FY 2014 Annual Financial Reports

Summaries Give Public Look at City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports that City staff delivered to the Mayor and Council in December give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2014, which closed on June 30, saw "continued positive changes in Rockville's economy, indicating that the City has weathered the recession quite well," City Manager Barbara B. Matthews wrote in the City's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR).

Two rating agencies recently reaffirmed the City's "triple A" bond rating and expressed

confidence in the City's financial outlook. The highest-possible rating allows Rockville to borrow money at the most favorable rates.

"Across all funds, the City's net position increased by \$11.2 million, or 3.5 percent over FY 2013," the report said. "This increase means that the City's various revenues across all funds were more than sufficient to cover expenses, and the City's net worth increased."

The PAFR (pronounced PAFF-er) is a summary document outlining how the City spent funds and from which revenue source the funds came.

The City created the first

PAFR in 2007 as a way to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in the City's audited financial report, known as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The CAFR is prepared by Rockville's Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The City is audited each year by a firm of certified public accountants.

The PAFR is not a replacement for the CAFR, but rather a supplemental document to further assist the public

in their review of the City government's financial operations.

The FY 2014 PAFR describes:

- The overall financial health of the City.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.
- The City's General Fund and Enterprise Funds.
- The City's total debt load.

The PAFR and CAFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports. The City's adopted budget can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ❖

Rockville Seeks Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards

The City's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through Wednesday, March 4 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Green Building

Technology/Design.

- Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work, or study within the City. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or be able to demonstrate significant operations within the City limits.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870 for more information. ❖

Prepare for Winter Weather

Winter is here and Rockville's Department of Public Works (DPW) is prepared to handle emergency weather situations.

Road crews, equipment, salt, beet juice and supplies are ready to respond to a weather emergency.

Rockville residents can prepare for winter weather just like DPW. Check supplies, snow shovels, and make sure you have ice-melting supplies.

Removing snow from sidewalks, accessible curb ramps, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the adjacent property and/or business owner or occupant, unless a community association has assumed the responsibility. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property in the following time frames:

- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.
- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours.

If residents living next to a fire hydrant are able to do

so, they should clear snow from the hydrant.

The Rockville Senior Center connects volunteers with seniors who need help clearing snow from around their homes following winter storms.

Volunteers should call the Senior Center at 240-314-8819 to be paired with a senior in need in the volunteer's neighborhood.

Community members are encouraged to check on elderly neighbors and others who might face special challenges during inclement weather.

Sign up for emergency alerts via Alert Rockville at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

For more on winter preparedness in Rockville visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.

For the latest updates on closures and the weather's effect on programs and facilities, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/weather or find updates posted on the Rockville's Facebook page (City of Rockville, City Hall), and on Twitter at @Rockville411. ❖

Pike Plan Moves Ahead with Hearings, Documentary

While City leaders continue work on Rockville's Pike Plan, the guiding document that will shape how a 2-mile stretch of the Pike corridor looks in the future, community members can learn about the Pike's history in a new Rockville 11 documentary.

"Origin of the Great Road, Rockville Pike," narrated by local historian Eileen McGuckian, takes viewers on a journey from the earliest days of the road, when it was a footpath traveled by Native Americans, to the bustling thoroughfare it is today. The 25-minute program can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/cityofrockville, by searching for "Origin of the Great Road."

The Mayor and Council have received more than 50 submissions of testimony (spoken at public hearings or submitted in writing) on the plan since the public record opened on July 14.

Rockville 11 has covered the progress of the plan, including airing and replay-

ing the public hearings and several worksessions. Those hearings and worksessions, on Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, can be viewed by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and selecting the video icon next to each meeting date. Rockville 11 also recapped a Nov. 1 walking meeting with the Mayor and Council and community members in a segment available on the City's YouTube channel.

Next Steps

The Mayor and Council plan to hold more worksessions and an additional public hearing in 2015 before transmitting comments to the Planning Commission. Dates of additional hearings and worksessions will be posted as details are finalized at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike, where the plan can also be found. Public comments may be sent to the Mayor and Council through Jan. 26 at cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or to the City Clerk's Office, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville MD 20850. ❖

INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Bookworms at Croydon Creek Will Ask 'Who Will See Their Shadows This Year?'

January's Bookworms program at Croydon Creek Nature Center asks the title question of a book by Jerry Pallotta: "Who Will See Their Shadows This Year?"

Children ages 2 to 5 and their parents can enjoy a reading of the book at the nature center at 852 Avery Road from 3:30-4:15 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25. Participants will receive a copy of the book to take home. Each Bookworm program may include a craft or hike.

Adult participation is required and spaces are limited. Cost is \$10 for residents; \$12 for nonresidents. Register using Rock Enroll registration and course #49925 at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.



Recycle the Holidays: Trees Make Great Mulch

Rockville collects holiday trees as part of its regular recycling collection. Trees are taken to the Montgomery County Recycling Center where they become mulch. The mulch is available year-round and can be picked up, for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

Residents should place cut trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling days after removing all ornaments, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged.

Unwanted artificial trees should be dismantled and placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment or taken to the transfer station.

For more information on recycling and refuse service, holiday tree collection, or to make a bulk collection appointment, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse or call 240-314-8568.



Combat Cold Air With an Energy Checkup

Homeowners noticing a draft of cold air through their home this winter should consider scheduling a free Quick Home Energy Check-up from Pepco.

Trained professionals evaluate homes' energy efficiency, including insulation, air leakage, lighting, appliances and heating and cooling equipment. The energy pros also install energy-saving products during the checkup, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, efficient-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and water heater tank and pipe insulation, at no additional cost to existing Pepco service. Afterwards, homeowners receive a report with recommendations for further energy-saving improvements.

To schedule a Quick Home Energy Check-up from Pepco, call 1-866-353-5798 or visit www.pepco.com/quickhome.

For more environmental tips throughout the year, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

Apply Now to Exhibit Art at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

The City of Rockville celebrates its commitment to the arts through programs that reflect the diversity and vitality of the community. It is with great pride that the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery continues to showcase the finest artists in the region. The gallery exhibits two- and three-dimensional work and can show almost any media—from charcoal sketches to large installations.

The process of selecting art for 2016 exhibits is now underway.

Eligibility: Open to all artists living and/or working in the greater metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. **Note:** Former Glenview Mansion Art Gallery exhibitors must wait two years before reapplying (2014 gallery exhibitors may apply in 2016 for opportunities in 2017). Those who exhibited in 2013 are eligible to apply for this round of entries.

Selection process: All submissions will be reviewed by gallery staff and an esteemed jury panel consisting of artists and art professionals. The panel will select artists and create exhibitions to be put on the 2016 calendar schedule by the gallery director. Exhibitions may consist of more than one artist.

Entries are due by Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. Artists will be notified of their selection by March 20.

Find a brochure of information, including terms for exhibiting, insurance information, application details and more, at www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery. For more information, call Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682.

Fitzgerald Evening of Literature Examines 'The Last Tycoon'

Join Jackson Bryer and Eleanor Heginbotham from the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival to discuss views and examine aspects of "The Last Tycoon," by F. Scott Fitzgerald on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 7-9 p.m. in the conservatory of the Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, at 603 Edmonston Drive.

Monroe Stahr struggles to find love and success in Fitzgerald's unfinished Hollywood novel, which some consider a masterpiece.

Future discussions will focus on "The Paris Wife," by Paula McLain, on Tuesday, Feb. 10 and "Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy, a Lost Generation Story," by Amanda Vaill, on Tuesday, March 24.

Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$10. To register, contact Betty Wisda, arts programs supervisor, at 240-314-8681 or bwisda@rockvillemd.gov.

Ballet Center Offers Classes for All Ages

Budding ballerinas and longtime dancers alike can explore their love of ballet right here in Rockville.

Registration is underway for the City's ballet program. Classes begin the week of Jan. 19 and run through May. Children who are registered may participate in Rockville's annual spring student performance. Classes include barre work and floor combination and are open to children (age 5 and older), teens and adults.

Pre-ballet classes allow children age 3 to 5 to explore and experiment with the fundamental elements of dance, body, space, rhythm and time. Parents are invited to attend a class recital during the last class of each pre-ballet session.

Students with demonstrated proficiency are encouraged to perform with the Rockville Civic Ballet.

Many classes are held at Rockcrest Ballet Center, at 1331 Broadwood Drive. The City completed a renovation to the center in 2013, including expanded changing areas. More ballet classes for preschoolers and children are offered at Thomas Farm Community Center, at 700 Falls Grove Drive, and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, at 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Find class details in the winter recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/classes or by calling 240-314-8620.

Arts & Entertainment

'Go Back for Murder' with Rockville Little Theatre

Come in out of the cold and enjoy a mystery from a master this month at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Rockville Little Theatre presents "Go Back for Murder," a show that will keep you on the edge of your seat, by the queen of mystery, Agatha Christie. A young woman tries to go back into the past to discover



who really killed her father – and whether her mother, convicted of the murder, is innocent.

Showtimes are Fridays, Jan. 16 and 23, and Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 24, at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, Jan. 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults; \$20 for seniors (62 and older) and students (with valid ID).

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located in Rockville Civic Center Park, at 603 Edmonston Drive.

For tickets, visit <http://rockville.ticketleap.com/go-back-for-murder-rlt/> or call 240-314-8690.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or call 240-314-8690. ❖

Reach Your 2015 Fitness Goals with Help from Rockville's Centers

Programs and Memberships Offer Access to Fitness Centers, Trainers and More

Get fit and improve your overall health by participating in one of the many classes offered by Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department.

Five facilities are open to the public at affordable rates. Details on fitness center rates, hours and personal training services can be found on each center's Web page:

- Lincoln Park Community Center (357 Frederick Ave.): www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc.
- Thomas Farm Community Center

(700 Falls Grove Drive): www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm.

- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center (12920 Twinbrook Parkway): www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook.
- Rockville Senior Center (1150 Carnation Drive; open to people age 60 and older): www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter.
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center (355 Martins Lane): www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter. Teen, adult, family and

senior rates are available at the community centers and swim center. Hours vary at each location but many of the fitness centers are open seven days a week and offer personal training services for a fee. The swim and fitness center offers lap swimming hours.

There are many types of fitness classes available, geared toward people who would prefer to get fit in a group setting. Some of the programs offered for adults this winter include: Wake Up Work Out, 20/20/20 Fitness, Jazzercise, Power

Sculpt, West Coast Swing, Complete Core and Stretch, Glow-Fitness, Pilates, and a variety of yoga classes. Programs for children include: Tennis for Kids, soccer, T-ball, Hip-Hop, yoga, basketball and ballet. For more on ballet programs, see the article on this page.

Most programs begin the week of Jan. 5. For more information and to register, find the winter recreation guide and Rock Enroll Registration at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide or call 240-314-8620. ❖

Glenview Welcomes Photography, Prints and Tempera Painting

Free Monthlong Exhibition Opens Jan. 11

Three artists will offer diverse works in photography, printing and painting at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery in January.

The exhibition will feature:

- "Richly Black & White"—photographs by F/1.4.
- "The Diversity Within"—gelatin silver prints by Michael Ian Goulding.
- "Sacred Presence"—icons, panels and egg tempera by Colette M. Kalvesmaki.

The exhibition runs Jan. 11-27. Meet the artists at a free opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 11, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Legendary impersonator Billy Finch will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Frank Sinatra's birth with a performance at 2 p.m.

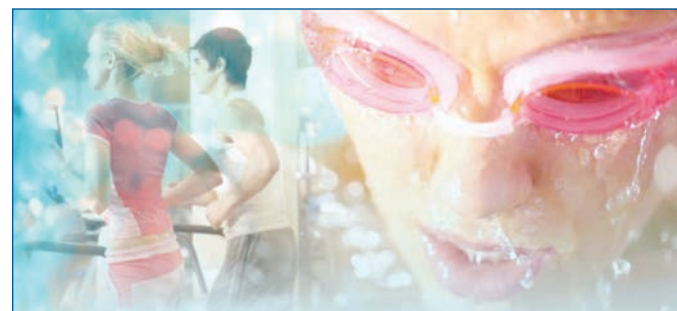
Friday, Jan. 2, will be the final day of a juried exhibition of work by the Rockville Art League, featuring oil, watercolor, sculpture and more.



the historic mansion, at 603 Edmonston Drive. It hosts monthlong exhibitions featuring the work of Rockville visual artists and performing groups.

Admission to the gallery is free. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. The gallery is closed on City holidays and will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31. It is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery or contact Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or email jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



Train at a Higher Level at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center

Register Now to Compete in the Dash and Splash

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center can help you continue your "weekend warrior" status or start a new hobby that ends in something a little more serious – triathlons.

The center offers swim classes, triathlete-level cycle and fitness training, certified trainers and numerous fitness machines and treadmills to take you wherever your fitness goals are heading.

The center has a certified USA Triathlon and USA Cycling coach on staff. Train like a pro with Masters Swimming sessions, Triathlon Swim clinics and Triathlon Endurance Development. Yoga for Athletes is a great addition to any athletic en-

deavor. Stay off the icy roads this winter and get your spinning fix with Indoor Cycle Training.

Need a goal? On Feb. 21-22 participate in the Dash and Splash aquathlon. The event involves a 20-minute walk or run on a treadmill followed by a 20-minute swim. Participants in each age group will be ranked by total distance logged. The Dash and Splash is open to competitors age 15 and older from all fitness levels. Registration is \$20 (\$15 for seniors).

For more information and to register, find the winter recreation guide and Rock Enroll Registration at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide or call 240-314-8750. ❖

FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery** **GM**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre** **FSF**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center** **CC**, Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road. Note: Registration required, register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.
- **Rockville Senior Center** **SR**, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8800.
- **Rockville City Hall** **CH**, 111 Maryland Ave. Call 240-314-5000.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find something that interests you at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/guide.

2-9 Coat Drive Coat donations—any size in new or excellent condition—can be dropped off at Lincoln Park Community Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, Thomas Farm Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center or Rockville City Hall. Call 240-314-8780. See ad on page 4.

3 Eagle Scout Project Blood Drive Double red cell donations will be accepted. All participating donors receive an American Red Cross T-shirt

January Calendar

R = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member

while supplies last. Bring a photo ID or Red Cross donor card, eat iron-rich foods and drink extra water starting the day before your donation. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call Ryne Culler at 301-838-9096 to schedule donations. **SR**

5 20/20/20 Demo Class Twenty minutes of each: cardio, strength training and core exercises. Register for course #49653. 6:15-7:15 p.m. Call 240-314-8620. Thomas Farm Community Center. See article on page 6.

6 Wake Up and Work Out Demo Class An hour-long workout to upbeat music. Register for course #49843. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Call 240-314-8620. Thomas Farm Community Center. See article on page 6.

6 Power Sculpt Dance Aerobics Demo Class For all fitness levels. Register for course #49705. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 240-314-8620. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. See article on page 6.

7 Zumba Dance Fitness Demo Class For all ages. Register for course #50561. 7:30-8 p.m. Call 240-314-8620. **SR**

9 First Day of Friday Night Ski Club Every Friday for eight weeks students in grades 6-12 enjoy a night of skiing at Ski Liberty. Lift ticket only: \$525 R/\$575 NR. Lift ticket, lesson and rental: \$605 R/\$655 NR. 3-10:30 p.m. Call 240-314-8634.

14 Glow Fitness Demo Class Join this exercise party and get moving to songs that'll get you pumped. Register for course #49143. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Call 240-314-8620. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. See article on page 6.

16-18, 23-25 "Go Back for Murder" presented by Rockville Little Theatre A woman travels back in time in search of her father's killer. See article on page 6 for show times and ticket information. **FSF**

17 Saturday Story and Craft Naturalists read a story and lead

a craft activity. Adult participation required. \$4 R/\$6 NR. Register for course #49922. 10-10:45 a.m. Call 240-314-8770. **CC**

25 Bookworms: "Who Will See Their Shadow This Year?" See article on page 5. **CC**

25 16th Annual Wedding Expo. See ad on this page. **GM**

29 Nature Tots Groundhog Day Naturalists and children explore Groundhog Day through nature play and hikes. Preregistration strongly recommended. Spaces limited. Register for course #49911. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. For more information call 240-314-8770. \$8 R/\$10 NR. **CC**

Boards and Commissions Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check the City website for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

7 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee 7 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.

10 Board of Appeals 9 a.m. Meets the second Saturday of the month and is televised on Rockville 11.

13 Human Services Advisory Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of the month.

14,28 Planning Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and is televised on Rockville 11.

14 Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

15 Historic District Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

15 Senior Citizens Commission 1 p.m. Meets the third

Thursday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

17 Environment Commission 9 a.m.-noon A retreat at the cottage at Glenview Mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

20 Rockville Seniors, Inc. 1 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

21 Rockville Housing Enterprises 6:30 p.m. Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 621-A Southlawn Lane.

22 Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m. Meets the fourth Thursday of the month.

27 Traffic and Transportation Commission 8:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

28 Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Compensation Commission (2)
 - Cultural Arts Commission (2)
 - Environment Commission (1)
 - Financial Advisory Board (1)
 - Historic District Commission (1-alternate)
 - Human Rights Commission (3)
 - Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
 - Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (2-alternate members)
 - Personnel Appeals Board (3)
 - Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (1)
 - Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
 - Rockville Sister City Corporation (1)
 - Senior Citizens Commission (1)
 - Traffic and Transportation (1)
- To learn more about the City's boards and commissions, or to apply, call the City Clerk's office at 240-314-8280 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Wedding Expo Comes to Glenview Mansion
Connect with Caterers, Cake Makers, Photographers and More

Glenview Mansion will host its 16th Annual Wedding Expo on **Sunday, Jan. 25 from noon-4 p.m.** Enjoy more than 30 vendor exhibits and samples, including catering, wedding cakes, dessert and candy tables, photography, musical entertainment, floral arrangement, travel, accommodations, tenting and rental services, event planning and more.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Purchase advanced tickets through the Rock Enroll registration system at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide using course #49030 or by calling 240-314-8660.

Wondering what a Glenview Mansion wedding might look like? Find "Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park" on Pinterest.

Our Town - Rockville
A Maryland Public Television Documentary

Be Part of Rockville's Story

Sign out a camera to record video of Rockville's everyday events, people and places. Complete the participation form at www.rockvillemd.gov/ourtown.

For more information, email ourtown@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8620.

Rockville Youth Recreation Fund
Please consider donating today.

This scholarship fund provides financial assistance to those who would not otherwise be able to participate in City of Rockville programs and activities.

If you would like to contribute, you may send a check, "add up" on your registration form, or donate at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov with the following donation course #:

- \$25, course #43998
- \$50, course #3999
- \$75, course #44000
- \$100, course #44001

Checks can be mailed to Rockville Recreation and Parks Department, "Rockville Youth Recreation Fund Donation," 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTING, VISIT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV

Día de Martin Luther King Jr., Cierres por Días Feriados y Nuevas Tarifas de Agua y Desagüe

Lo siguiente es un resumen de algunas de las principales noticias en esta edición de "Informes de Rockville":

Día de Martin Luther King Jr., Ceremonia para Conmemorar a 'Una Comunidad Querida'

Rockville marca el día de Martin Luther King Jr. el lunes 19 de enero con actuaciones y premios de reconocimiento a miembros de la comunidad que están continuando con el legado de King. La 43va Celebración Anual del Día de Martin Luther King Jr. se llevará a cabo a las 10 a.m. en la Escuela Secundaria Richard Montgomery, en el 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. Para más in-

formación visitar www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

Las Instalaciones de Rockville estarán cerradas por el Año Nuevo y el Día de MLK

El Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Rockville y todas las instalaciones de la ciudad estarán cerradas por el Día del Año Nuevo, el jueves 1ro de enero. El Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad y algunas instalaciones estarán cerradas por el día de Martin Luther King Jr. el lunes 19 de enero. Durante la semana del Año Nuevo, todo el reciclaje y los objetos indeseables que son recolectados regularmente el jueves serán

recolectados el viernes 2 de enero. Durante la semana del día de Martin Luther King Jr., todas las recolecciones de reciclaje y objetos indeseables serán un día después del horario regular. Para más información sobre horarios de recolecciones durante el feriado, llame al 240-314-8568 o visite www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

El Alcalde y el Consejo Aprueban la Nueva Estructura de Tarifas del Agua y Desagüe

Los clientes de Rockville verán un incremento moderado de tarifas de agua y desagüe durante los siguientes seis años siguiendo un reporte de un consultor

externo recomendando cambios e incrementos en la estructura de tarifas para abordar el déficit de los fondos del agua y desagüe de la Ciudad. El alcalde y el Consejo votarán el lunes 5 de enero sobre los primeros tres años de tarifas bajo el plan. Aprenda más sobre el decreto para establecer las tarifas para los años fiscales 2016-2018 en la agenda del Alcalde y el Consejo del 8 de diciembre en www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter.

Para más información en español, encuentre los comunicados de prensa sobre los temas anteriores y más, visitando www.rockvillemd.gov/news y refiriéndose a la casilla "Select Language" en la esquina derecha inferior de la página. ❖

Register Now for Diversity Leadership Workshop for Students

The City's Human Rights Commission will offer a diversity leadership workshop, for students attending high school in Rockville or attending Montgomery College-Rockville, on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The dynamic, highly interactive workshop will provide students with tools to handle difficult situations with an understanding of diverse populations. It is designed to help students recognize prejudice and create an environment of inclusion in their schools.

Student Service Learning credits will be offered. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, or to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights or call 240-314-8316. For information about accessibility, call the ADA coordinator at 240-314-8108.

City Employee Wins Statewide Award

The Maryland Building Officials Association recently named Rockville Building Plans Examiner Bradley Holmes as the association's "Plans Examiner of the Year."

Holmes, who has worked for the City since 1999 and has 28 years of experience working in code enforcement, reviews construction plans before structures are built to insure life safety and code compliance. Because the plans include electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems, the plans examiner is required to have extensive knowledge in many disciplines.

Holmes was nominated for the award by Ray O'Brocki, the City's Inspection Services Division chief.

Learn more about Rockville's Inspection Services Division at www.rockvillemd.gov/isd.



Celebrate Lunar New Year in February

Rockville's Celebration Returns with a Program at Fitzgerald Theatre

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

The celebration will feature a variety of multigenerational performances and exhibitors including: Diana Dance Arts, Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe, Flowing Lilies Chinese Dance Group, Wang Li Chinese Dance Group, Flowers of Beijing Opera, the girls fan dance group and boys Korean drum group from Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, the Iranian dance group from Loving Care adult medical day care in Gaithersburg and the Filipino-American Community of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg.

The celebration is organized by Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force to commemorate the beginning of the year 4713 on the Chinese calendar. One in three Rockville residents were born outside the United States and 54 percent of the City's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the City's planning department.

For more information, contact Janet Kelly, task force liaison, at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/apataskforce. For information about access, call the City's ADA coordinator at 240-314-8108.

Neighborhood Notes

Meet Your Neighbor: Jonathan Freda

Jonathan Freda graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in 2001. Eight years later he found himself back at his alma mater, as a teacher and one of the youngest athletic directors in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Born and raised in Rockville, Freda says his experience at Richard Montgomery made him want to return to teach and coach.

"I loved my teachers and my coaches, and I wanted to be just like them," said Freda, 32.

Growing up, Freda took advantage of many of the opportunities the City had to offer. He played football for the Rockville Football League from third grade until high school and attended the City's Summer Playground program at Woodley Gardens Park and the City's multi-sports

camp. His first work experience came at 16, as a counselor with the Kid's Club after-school program at Beall Elementary.

He has worked part-time for the City's summer programs for the past 20 years as a Summer Playgrounds counselor, teen programs



Jon Freda, Richard Montgomery H.S. teacher, coach and assistant athletic director.

leader, and, most recently, as a coordinator in the City's Leaders In Training program. "The City of Rockville is really where I got my first experiences working with kids, mentoring and learning to work and make a difference in our community," he said.

After graduating from Richard Montgomery, Freda earned a physical education degree from Towson University and landed a job as a teacher and, eventually, athletic director at Richard Montgomery.

He continued to teach

in the school's alternative program, added three new sports teams, created the RM Hall of Fame, oversaw numerous facility repair projects, and re-established partnerships with the Rockville community, RM alumni groups and the RM Booster Club.

After four years as athletic director, Freda stepped down in order to finish graduate work and to stoke a burning desire to get back into coaching football. He is now a full-time P.E. teacher, assistant football and track coach, and assistant athletic director.

"Two of the things that I strongly identify myself with, and credit to helping me become who I am today, are the City of Rockville and Richard Montgomery High School," he said. ✦

Meet Your Neighbor is a regular feature in Rockville Reports and on Rockville 11 highlighting the unique individuals that make our community a special place. To suggest someone for a future episode and article, email meetyou@rockvillemd.gov.



THE CITY RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR SERVICE. An awards ceremony was held on Dec. 11 at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Among the employees honored for long-time service was Mary "Fran" Jablonski (pictured), of the City's Finance Department, for 40 years of service. Others included Maj. Michael England (Police), Anita McCombs (City Attorney), Timothy Millar (Public Works) and Elizabeth "Betty" Wisda (Recreation and Parks), all with 35 years of service; and Patrick Stroud and Steven Wright, both with 30 years of service with Public Works.

Improvements to the South Pool

continued from pg. 3...

walls to deteriorate.

The project will replace the existing pool deck, the underside of which is the ceiling of the filtration room, where concrete deterioration is also apparent. The pool walls and filtration room floor will be repaired. Bleachers that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be

removed and replaced with portable, modular units.

Improved drainage of water on the pool deck will prevent deterioration of the concrete slab. A new pool gutter includes a system that removes chloramines—irritants created when chlorine combines with swimmer's perspiration and other body oils, creating "pool smell"—from just above the water's surface.

A new HVAC system on the pool's roof will also

improve the poor air circulation contributing to decay in the natatorium and filtration room.

An engineering firm's recent assessment said the repairs are critical to the South Pool continuing to function properly. Work could begin as early as spring. The project is expected to take nine months to complete, during which time the North Pool and outdoor facilities will be used for center programs. ✦



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the City of Rockville's website. If you don't already have a QR code reader on your phone, there are plenty of free apps you can download. When you have an app installed, point your phone's camera at the code and the website will appear in your phone's web browser.

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- One and multi-week options
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- Registration opens Jan. 20
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